

RES25-204
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 378

*BUDGET (BUD)

***BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jul 22, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Micah Munekata	Email: mmunekata@ulupono.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Ulupono Initiative	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 21, 2025 @ 09:57 AM
Name: Daniel Dinell	Email: ddinell@treesforhonolulu.org	Zip: 96822
Representing: Trees for Honolulu's Future	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 21, 2025 @ 12:24 PM
Name: Eduardo Hernandez	Email: eduardo@hbl.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Bicycling League	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 21, 2025 @ 02:32 PM
Name: Robert Bourke	Email: rebourke2003@yahoo.com	Zip: 93950
Representing: Enchanted Lake Residents Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 22, 2025 @ 04:20 AM



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
Tuesday, July 22, 2025 — 9:00 A.M.

Ulupono Initiative supports Resolution 25-204, Transfer of Funds (CCSR).

Dear Chair Okimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports Resolution 25-204, which authorizes a transfer of Climate Resiliency Fund monies for Fiscal Year 2026.

Ulupono supports dedicated resources for the City's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. We believe these monies are key to ensuring Honolulu remains resilient despite the many climate change challenges we face today and into the future.

The proposed transfers will fund vital preventative and ameliorative measures that will protect residents, infrastructure, and environment through a comprehensive approach that includes stormwater planning studies, climate education programs, energy audits, and transportation alternatives.

Among the funded initiatives, we particularly support the \$1,000,000 allocation to expand Biki options for transit commuters through the Department of Transportation Services. Transportation accounts for a significant portion of Honolulu's carbon emissions, and expanding our public bicycle sharing system directly reduces vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions while providing affordable transportation options for residents who may not have access to private vehicles. Biki expansion also promotes public health while addressing climate change, offers economic resilience as fuel costs fluctuate, and prepares our county for a lower-carbon future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Written Testimony before the
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
Tuesday, July 22, 2025 (9:00 AM)

RE: RESOLUTION 25-204 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS (CCSR).

Aloha Committee Chair Okimoto and Committee Members:

Trees for Honolulu's Future (TFHF) is a nonprofit organization with a vision for a tree-filled island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We support this resolution and the various uses/transfers proposed by the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (OCCSR). Specifically, we applaud OCCSR for recommending funding of the "Climate Champions" initiative that TFHF and 5 other nonprofit organizations were engaged under an EPA environmental justice award that was abruptly terminated earlier this year. We also note other worthy projects identified for funding via the Climate Resiliency Fund that the voters of O'ahu passed as a charter amendment last year.

Last week, I attended the City's 2025 Stormwater Quality BMP Workshop and presented work that we are engaged in the Ala Wai Watershed area to implement green stormwater infrastructure. What was most satisfying? The fact that "trees" were mentioned 3 times unprompted by participants on a keynote panel. This is recognition of the value they play in creating a more livable and resilient city.

Trees create multiple benefits well documented by research. They create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature. Trees recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs. Trees trap pollutants and store CO2. Trees calm traffic. They are critical infrastructure. Numerous jurisdictions, including Honolulu, have recognized this, and are making tremendous progress in greening their cities.

With your support, City departments and NGOs can do even more.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell, President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353
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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 - 9:00am

HBL strongly supports Resolution 25-204, Transfer of Funds (CCSR).

Dear Chair Okimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eduardo Hernandez, and I am the Advocacy Director for the Hawai'i Bicycling League (HBL). We are a non-profit organization founded in 1975 with the mission of enabling more people to ride bicycles for health, recreation, and transportation. We strive to create communities across our islands that have safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for people to bike, walk, and roll.

HBL strongly supports Resolution 25-204, which authorizes a transfer of Climate Resiliency Fund monies for Fiscal Year 2026, as this provides dedicated resources for the City's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. We believe these monies are key to ensuring Honolulu remains resilient despite the many climate change challenges we face today and into the future.

Among the funded initiatives, we particularly support the \$1,000,000 allocation to expand Biki options for transit commuters through the Department of Transportation Services (DTS). Transportation accounts for a significant portion of Honolulu's carbon emissions, and expanding our public bicycle sharing system directly reduces vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas emissions while providing affordable transportation options for residents who may not have access to private vehicles. Biki expansion also promotes public health while addressing climate change, offers economic resilience as fuel costs fluctuate, and prepares our county for a lower-carbon future.

We look forward to working with DTS and transportation stakeholders in a transparent process to identify the priorities for this key segment of our public transportation network. Together, we can partner to implement prioritized solutions that respond to the greatest need and that serve users most equitably. Presently, there is a significant need for infrastructure investment to get more devices and docks integrated into the system, particularly at and around rail stations, as well as better communication for the public to know how to use Biki safely. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ride aloha,

Eduardo Hernandez
Advocacy Director

Mr. Tommy Waters, Chair
City Council Budget Committee
City and County of Honolulu
Hawaii

June 22, 2025

Subject: Support for Amendment to 25-204 CD1: regarding removal of Mangrove

Dear Sir;

As a long time member and Scientific Advisor for the Enchanted Lake Residents Association (ELRA) I wish to support the Council Draft Amendment item:

- C. Adds a new fifth WHEREAS clause to provide that a transfer not to exceed \$750,000 to the DFM, Storm Water Quality activity, is required to remove mangroves from the City-managed portions of Ka`elepulu Stream.

Please note that the City Managed portion of the waterway includes Ka`elepulu Stream, but also the lower extent of Kawainui Stream from where it joins Ka`elepulu up stream to the Hamakua Bridge. This effort is well timed as it coordinates with a State DLNR DOFAW project to eradicate mangrove from the Hamakua Bridge to the end of the Kawainui Stream. If properly coordinated, this will offer the opportunity to permanently eradicate this alien invasive plant from this valuable estuary habitat. Eradication will break the very expensive 20 year cycle of cutting and regrowth of the mangrove within this essentially closed system.

The DFM stormwater branch should not need additional planning funds for the Kailua watershed as they have funded numerous studies to identify the problems and potential solutions within the Kailua watershed over the past 20 years. Their 2008 report produced by AECOM did an excellent job in identifying the problems and potential solutions – including green scape solutions – within the watershed. The majority of the proposed solutions have not yet been implemented. It would be more prudent to provide funds to implement solutions already identified.

Mangroves are a huge contributor to poor water quality, and increased flood threat due to decrease flow capacity within the channels. Numerous studies have shown that when these alien mangroves are removed from Hawaiian ecosystems, the water quality improves, oxygen levels increase, and native plants and fish move back into the cleared waters.

We note that requests for capital improvement project ideas in our watershed are still being requested until August 30, and we expect that this resolution is not a substitute for consideration of other capital improvement suggestions to improve water quality in our watershed.

Aloha

Bob Bourke
ELRA Scientific Advisor
808 256 2057